

lived it, to the everlasting gratitude of the people that he represented in Queens and the Bronx. When the Long Island Railroad threatened to build a waste transfer station in western Queens, Tom led the successful fight to block it. When police officers suffered permanent job-related injuries, Tom made sure that they and their families received fitting lifetime compensation.

But perhaps Tom Manton's most enduring legacy may be forging the most united and effective political party organization in any county in New York City. He accomplished this remarkable achievement in what is probably the most ethnically diverse county in the Nation, and he did it with his singular and extraordinary powers of leadership. He was able to convene diverse groups and views and unite them behind common goals and purposes.

He showed an unparalleled ability to identify and encourage new leadership and talent from the emerging communities of our City and to develop and nurture future public servants who were worthy of the responsibilities with which they were entrusted. That is truly Tom Manton's greatest legacy, a history of leadership through inclusion, guided by the principles of tolerance and equality.

When I first came to Congress, Tom took me under his wing. He was an important mentor to me, an important friend, and my heart goes out to his wife, Diane, his children and his grandchildren. You are in our hearts and in our prayers. Tom will be deeply missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to speak from the heart, and that is what I want to do, because Tom Manton was my friend.

You know, you get to an age where when you hear eulogies and you think that it is someone who lived in the distant past and not one of your colleagues or not one of your contemporaries. And even though Tom was several years older than me, he was certainly one of my contemporaries, because when I came to Congress in 1988, there was no one who was warmer and friendlier and opened his door more to me than Tom Manton.

I didn't really know Tom before I came to Congress. I had heard about him. He served on the New York City Council while I was serving in the New York State assembly, and he had a reputation of being this tough guy, maybe a bit gruff, and I didn't really know what to expect. But when I got to know Tom, and I got to know him very, very well, I learned that under this gruffness was this soft underbelly; that he was a very thoughtful and soft-spoken man; a very good person, who really cared about people, really cared about

his country; a great life smart, intelligent man who came out of an ordinary working class family in New York City, the way so many of us did, and who worked hard.

I am sure he was the first person in his family to go to college. He went to law school and became a good lawyer. He was a very smart intelligent man and he really lived the American dream. That is what so many of us have done, children of immigrants and grandchildren of immigrants. Well, that is really what Tom Manton did.

Tom and I became very, very good friends. We were very close. We would go out to dinner and talk a lot. I still have a picture hanging in my office of Tom and myself taken, I think I was just elected but not yet sworn in. I had won the election and Tom signed it and said, "The New York delegation is richer with your election." And that was just the kind of nice thing that he would do, would write it with his own handwriting.

It was Tom who encouraged me to go on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which is a great committee but difficult to get on to, and Tom encouraged me. He was a member of the committee and encouraged me to try for the committee, which I did with his help and support, and eventually was made a part of that committee.

Tom cared about people. He cared about working people and was very close to labor. He always had very, very close friends because he worked very, very hard for the average person. My colleagues have already talked about what a difference he made in people's lives from the Irish peace process to just caring about every day people, ordinary people back home.

After he left Congress, he kept in touch and came down several times doing some lobbying, doing some work. And whenever you needed him to help you, with a campaign contribution or just a good friendly smile or some good friendly advice, Tom was always there. That is why he was such an effective Democratic county leader of Queens County and why his influence really extended beyond his borough, because when people wanted to aspire to leadership positions in the New York City council, be it speaker or whatever, if you got Tom Manton's blessing, you really had a leg up on everybody else in order to achieve that position. And Tom really was very effective in doing that.

When you are a political leader, you make tough decisions. You make friends and you make enemies. But everyone knew that Tom Manton was always fair and above board. He told you where you stood, and he was very, very honest with it. A very, very soft-spoken person who really cared about his country, about his state, about his city and, indeed, his friends as well.

I would say to Diane and the rest of the family that our lives are all richer because we knew Tom Manton. His memory will live because the benefits

he provided to his city and his State and his country will continue to go on and on.

I last saw Tom a few years ago during the presidential campaign when there was a rally in his borough for JOHN KERRY. And although I have spoken with Tom since then, that was actually the last time I had physically seen him. And I remember thinking that he didn't look quite as good as I had remembered, and from that point on, with his long illness, which of course culminated in his death.

Let me just speak for me, but I think all of us aspire to be the kind of person that Tom Manton was, an honest person coming from working class roots, a working class family, who understood that by helping people, you helped the country and you make a difference in people's lives. Tom, I know, is looking down at us, and I want him and his family to know that he has made a difference in all of our lives, those of us who were fortunate to call him our friend and fortunate enough to call him our colleague. But even those people that never met Tom, that only knew his name, are better because Tom Manton served in the United States Congress and made a difference in their lives as well, a difference in everybody's lives in the United States of America.

I am going to miss my good friend. We are all going to miss him. But we are all going to remember him. He is going to live on in our hearts and our minds and with the good work he did to make our country a better place. God bless you, Tom. We will all miss you, but we will never forget you.

#### TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSMAN THOMAS J. MANTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. This is indeed a sad time, but a happy time. Sad, and my prayers go out to Tom, Thomas J. Manton and his family over his passing; but happy because his life passed our way. And so, as in all things, we thank God. We thank God for the life of Thomas J. Manton.

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When I think of Tom and all of what he has done in his career, there is a commercial that ran some time ago and it said he "did it the old-fashioned way." Well, Tom became an attorney, a member of the New York City Police Department, a member of the city council, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a county leader of Queens County the old-fashioned way. He earned it. He truly is an inspiration for men and women who may have grown up on the hard side of the mountain, that if, in fact, you focus and you work hard, that truly you can make a contribution to your community and to the great society that we call America.

When I think of Tom, I think of words like "gentleman." I think of words like "dignity," and I think of words like "respect."

In 1984, we needed the right person at the right time to bring Queens County politics back, and history is something that is ongoing. And you never know when you are creating history or you are part of history. You just do what you have to do. But in 1984, Queens County politics was at its all-time low. So what it needed at that time, at its time of need, was a man of dignity, a man who earned respect, and a man who was honest because we did not have that reputation at that particular time. So Queens was lucky that there was a man that was willing to step up to the plate and become the county leader. And I think that is significant.

And I know he was a Member of this House, and I know that he was a city councilman and police officer, but I want to talk about Tom, that for 20 years, he was Chair of the Queens County organization, and people know that in this day and age that it is a feat that is not often obtained, because what you have got to do is you have got to keep and bring people together. And Queens County, as you have heard already, is the most diverse county in all of these United States of America. So people scratch their heads and try to figure out how did Tom Manton sustain his leadership in the most diverse county in this Nation?

Well, first of all, and you are going to hear me utilizing these words frequently, he earned the respect of people. Some people think county bosses and backrooms and they have got whips and all that kind of stuff and they try to whip you in line. Tom was always soft-spoken and always tried to give you, in a rational way, his viewpoint and how it was best for the whole to do whatever he believed. But even in that, he included people. He did not just say "I am Tom Manton, and this is what I am doing." He brought people around and included them in the process so that when a decision was made, it was made by the entirety. And he had the vision to know and to understand that the county was so diverse that you had to make sure that everybody had a seat at the table.

So, yes, he brought in the first South Asian. He brought in the first Latino. He helped create the first woman borough president and the first African American borough president in Queens County. He had the vision to make sure that you had sometimes somebody who might be a newcomer but had the ability to bring people together to make sure that they were part of it.

And what I also think was unique about Tom, even when he had to say no to you, it was never a personal situation. And I think that you could look and see where many individuals whom he may not have been with initially or had to turn down for one position, but later down the road, he found a way to make sure that that relationship was

reconciled and that person went on to do some other things. He was extremely loyal, which is another fantastic quality that you often do not see.

So I conclude my statements by just saying again, as I started, I have to thank the Creator of all for Tom Manton, because He sent us the right man at the right time to do the right thing for a borough that was desperately in need. He sent the right man at the right time to do the right thing to sit here in the United States House of Representatives. He sent the right man at the right time to have such a beautiful and dignified family as the Manton family. And our hearts and our prayers go out to the entire Manton family.

May his soul rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. LOWEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN TOM MANTON

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, Tom Manton was not only a great guy, but for those of us who have been involved in politics, as I said earlier, he truly was a politician's politician. You did not have to ask a question and hear a lot of arguments that you did not understand. Tom would give you a straight answer and save you a lot of time.

But if there was a book written about great Americans or, even more importantly, great New Yorkers and great Americans, Tom Manton really would fit in that profile.

His parents came to the United States from Ireland, and Tom followed the course of not only being a United States Marine but being a dedicated police officer. After that he continued to serve for 14 years in the New York City Council and then succeeded Geraldine Ferraro in the House of Representatives.

All of these things are careers in and of themselves. But to be prepared to be the Democratic county leader of the diverse county that Queens represents really takes an exceptional person, and Tom was just that. So many people have spoken about the opportunities that he has given not only to African Americans, Jews, and gentiles, but the multiracial composition of that great county which we all in the City of New York love, to be able to reach out and to find qualified candidates and to sup-

port them so that in Albany and in the city council, that great county would have representatives that are elected really takes the wand of a magician who recognizes that he, too, came from a community, from a family that were strangers at one time to the United States and especially to New York.

I had a very special relationship with Tom when he was in the city council. I enjoyed working with him in the Congress. And even when he became a county leader, he still would reach over the rivers, over the bridges, to find out how he could put together tickets for the city council and bring about some degree of harmony so that, instead of having fights within the Democratic Party, he would find out how could we put together a package which all the boroughs could agree?

I enjoyed working with him. I would want to thank his beautiful wife, Diane, and the members of his family, for sharing this great New Yorker and this great American with us.

Our prayers and support will be with you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TOM MANTON'S LEGACY OF INCLUSIVENESS

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, so much tonight has been said about Tom Manton and so much more can be said.

What I would like to do for a couple of minutes is focus on my personal relationship with him and what role he played and the conversations we had about what he saw in the future of the county of Queens and the future of New York politics.

As we know, in our American political system, different generations bring forth different communities wanting to share in the American political dream. And as we know, politics is at the very foundation of our full American system.

From the day I came here in March of 1990, and I came in a special election, Tom Manton was one of two people that stayed very close to me, the other being Mr. RANGEL. In fact, Mr. RANGEL and Tom Manton teamed up a couple of years later to make sure that New York City received a seat on the Appropriations Committee, and it is no secret that Tom Manton and CHARLIE RANGEL accomplished that for me.

But as part of the conversations that we had throughout the years that he